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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/826,898 | UEDA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Thierry L. Pham | Art Unit 2625 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to telephone interview and authorized Examiner's amendment dated 9/22/06.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11, 13-16, and 26-28 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-15.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/22/06.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other _____.


GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Telephone interview dated 9/22/06 and Examiner's amendment authorized by Mike Monoco dated 9/22/06.
- As the results of telephone interview dated 9/22/06, claims 22 & 24 are canceled (via examiner's amendment), claims 6, 11, 13, and 16 are amended to include allowable subject matter (see below for details); claims 15 & 16 are amended to include "computer" in compliance with 101 issue. Non-compliant response office action mailed 8/22/06 is herein withdrawn since claims 22 & 24 are canceled by Examiner's Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11, 13-16, and 26-28 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-15.
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest the result information includes information with a "z-order", wherein the "z-order" indicates whether one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information and in combinations of other features in the claims as cited in independent claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, and 15-16 (renumbered as 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 respectively).. The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, nor found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features as cited in claims as cited in independent claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, and 15-16 (renumbered as 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 respectively).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mike Monoco on 9/22/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Listing of Claims amended by Examiner's Amendment:

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processing system comprising:

 a communication unit configured to communicate with an information processing apparatus configured to process first image information and second image information in association with each other, both of the first image information and the second image information representing at least one element and an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information;

 an image processor configured to receive the second image information from the information processing apparatus via the communication unit, configured to display the received second image information on a given display device, configured to receive an operation instruction for the displayed second image information, configured to process the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction, and configured to send result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the information processing apparatus, the result information includes information with a z-order of the at least one element in the second image information, wherein the z-order indicates whether

the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information; and

an output controller configured to receive the first image information via the communication unit, the first image information being edited according to the result information on the information processing apparatus, and configured to cause a given printing device to print the received first image information, and

wherein when the operation instruction includes adding process for adding additional information to the displayed second image information, the image processor saves the additional information, and the output controller executes a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information and causes the given printing device to print a result of the superimpose process.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image processing method applied to an image processing apparatus including a communication unit for communicating with an information processing apparatus configured to process first image information and second image information in association with each other, both of the first information and the second image information representing at least one element and an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information; the method comprising:

receiving the second image information from the information processing apparatus via the communication unit;

displaying the received second image information on a given display device;

receiving an operation instruction for the displayed second image information;

processing the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction;

sending result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the information processing apparatus, the result information includes information with a z-order of the at least one element in the second image information, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information;

receiving the first image information via the communication unit, the first image information being edited according to the result information on the information processing apparatus;

saving an additional information, if the operation instruction includes an adding process for the adding additional information to the displayed second image information;

executing a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information; and

causing a given printing device to print at least one of the received first image information or a result of the superimpose process.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An image information distributing method applied to a network system including a first image processing apparatus and a second image processing apparatus, the first image processing apparatus and the second image processing apparatus being interconnected with each other, the first image processing apparatus configured to store first image information and second image information, both of the first image information and the

second image information representing at least one element, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information, the method comprising:

 sending the second image information to the second image processing apparatus from the first image processing apparatus;

 displaying the second image information on a given display device of the second image processing apparatus;

 receiving an operation instruction for the displayed second image information in the second image processing apparatus;

 processing the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction in the second image processing apparatus;

 sending result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the first image processing apparatus from the second image processing apparatus,
the result information includes information with a z-order of the at least one element in the second image information, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information, wherein when the
operation instruction includes adding process for adding additional information to the displayed second image information, wherein the additional information is saved in the second image processing apparatus;

 editing the first image information, in the first image processing apparatus, according to the result information;

 sending the edited first image information in a compressed format to the second image processing apparatus from the first image processing apparatus;

executing a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information in the second image processing apparatus; and
causing a given printing device of the second image processing apparatus to print a result of the superimpose process.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer storage medium including computer readable program code means embodied in the medium, the storage medium being applicable to a computer including a communication unit configured to communicate with an apparatus and a storage configured to store first image information which represents at least one element, the apparatus configured to operate on image information, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for sending second image information which represents the at least one element to the apparatus, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information;

computer readable program code means for acquiring result information, the result information being a result of an operation which is executed on the sent second image information in the apparatus, wherein the acquired result information includes information with a z-order of the at least one element in the second image information, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information;

computer readable program code means for editing the first image information according to the acquired result information, said first image information being edited according to the acquired result information so that when a plurality of elements superimpose each other, the portion of the image information covered by any of the plurality of elements is not included by the edited first image information; and

computer readable program code means for sending the edited first image information to the apparatus for printing by a printing device provided at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A computer storage medium including computer readable program code means embodied in the medium, the storage medium being applicable to a computer including a communication unit for communicating with an apparatus configured to process first image information and second image information in association with each other, both of the first image information and the second image information representing at least one element, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for receiving the second image information from the apparatus via the communication unit;

computer readable program code means for displaying the received second image information on a given display device;

computer readable program code means for receiving an operation instruction for the displayed second image information;

computer readable program code means for processing the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction;

computer readable program code means for sending result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the apparatus, the result information includes information with a z-order of the at least one element in the second image information, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information;

computer readable program code means for saving additional information when the operation instruction includes an adding process for adding the additional information to the displayed second image information;

computer readable program code means for receiving the first image information via the communication unit, the first image information being edited according to the result information on the apparatus;

computer readable program code means for executing a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information; and

computer readable program code means for causing a given printing device to print a result of the superimpose process.

Claims 22, 24 (Cancelled).



EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL DIVISION 2000
JULY 1 2008